

REMARKS

In the Office Action dated July 14, 2009, the Examiner states the application contains the following inventions:

- Group I: Claims 1-13 and 23, drawn to a battery module;
- Group II: Claims 14-17, drawn to a battery assembly;
- Group III: Claims 18-19, drawn to method of manufacturing a battery module;

and

- Group IV: Claims 20-22, drawn to method of manufacturing a battery assembly.

The Examiner states that these inventions do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding special technical features. As a result, the Examiner requires Applicant to elect a single disclosed invention for examination. Applicant elects Group I, and respectfully submits that claims 1-13 and 23 should be examined. Applicant also has amended withdrawn claim 18 so that the structural features recited therein conform to the structural features of claim 1 to preserve the right of rejoinder.

Applicant makes this election without traverse purely to further prosecution of the instant application and expressly states that this election is not to be construed as any of agreement with the Examiner's statement of the special technical features of the pending claims, agreement with the Examiner's interpretation of U.S. Patent Nos. 5,567,542 and 5,871,861 or a concession as to the unpatentability of any claim in the instant application.

Applicant submits that no new matter is added to the Application as filed. Consideration and allowance of the Application is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below if the Examiner believes an Examiner's amendment would expedite prosecution of the Application.

Respectfully submitted,

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